THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Alcohol Based Chemical Industries have represented to the Government that they are under strain due to high price of molasses & alcohol prevailing in the market.

(b) Some State Governments have retained control over molasses and alcohol under existing State laws.

(c) The Government have reduced import duty on denatured alcohol required for industrial use from 105 per cent to 10 per cent to enable the industry to secure stocks at competitive international prices.

Gas Cracker Project in Assam

6867. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Letter of Intent was issued on the 25th January, 1991 in favour of Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) for some gas cracker project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Assam Gas Crack-r Project has since been launched;

(d) if so, the progress of the same as 00 the 25th April, 1994 and if no progress has been made, the reasons therein:

(e) whether Government are aware that delay in implementation of the project is leading to cost escalation anil receding the viability of the project;

(f) whether the circmnstances referred to as envisaged in part *(e)* above will make it difficult for the AIDC to find a oo-promoter, as 'envisaged in the scheme; and

(g) if so. the steps proposed to be taken to suture speedy implementation of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE EN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO); (a) to (b) Ye», Sir. A letter of intent was issued on 25-1-1991 in favour of AIDC for a gas cracker project of 300,000 TPA Ethylene capacity and the connected downstream products like HDPE, LLDPE, etc. The validity of the letter of intent has been extended upto the end of January, 1996.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) AIDC propose to implement the project in the assisted sector. As per the available information, they are still in the process of selecting the co-promoter for the project.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Having regard to the locationa] and other disadvantages inherent in setting up a project in Assam and the other North-Eastern States, the Government of Assam has approached the Central Government for grant of certain fiscal concessions, and availability of gas for the cracker at a concessional price over a period of time. Taking into consideration the incentives asked for by the Government of Assam, AIDC has re-worked the other details in consultation with M/s. Engineers India Limited.

Effect of GATT Agreement on fertilizer subsidy

6868. SHRI S. S, SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what will be the effect of GATT Agreement, popularly known as Buhket Proposals, on the subsidy being aSrfelffy given in. fertihzera by Government of India and whether the subsidy is likely to bo abolished/curtailed:

(b) whether the above agreement is going to adversely affect We interests of farmers in the country in the matter of fertilizer subsidy and price structure of fertilizers and pesticides; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) There is no obligation upon India to reduce subsidy on controlled fertilizers under the Uruguay Round agreement on agriculture.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

बिहार में पैट्रो-रसायन संयंत्र की स्थापना

6869. श्री नागमणि : क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार में पट्रो-रसायन संयंत्र स्थापित किए जाने के लिए वहां पर्याप्त मात्रा में रासायनिक-ऊर्जा उपलब्ध है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस संयंत्र की स्थापना के लिए बिहार द्वारा काफी लम्बे समय से मांग की जाती रही है; और

(ग) सरकार बिहार में पेट्रो-रसायन संयंत्र की स्थापना कब तक करने का विचार रखती है, यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडुआर्डो फेलेरियो): (क) से (ग) मेसर्स बिहार राज्य औद्योगिक विकास निगम लिमिटेड ने बिहार राज्य के बेगुसराय जिले के बरौनी नामक स्थान पर एक एरोमेटिक काम्प्लैक्स स्थापित करने के लिए आशय पत्र के लिए सितम्बर, 1984 में आवेदन दिया था। यह आवेदन सितम्बर, 1986 में इस आधार पर रद्द कर दिया गया था कि परियोजना के लिए अपेक्षित फीडस्टाक की व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है।

राज्य की किसी एजेंसी से कोई नया प्रस्ताव केन्द्र सरकार के पास अनिर्णित नहीं पड़ा है। अब भी ऐसा आवेदन किया जाएगा तो सरकार फीडस्टाक, विपणन अथवा ऐसी परियोजना की व्यवहार्यता के संबंध में किसी बचनबद्धता के बिना उस पर विचार करने के लिए तैयार होगी।

Grievances of plastic sack industries

6870. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN;
SHRI J. S. RAJU:
SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plastic woven sack manufacturing industry is facing tough time to survive in view of powerful jute lobby not wanting plastic woven sacks to be used in domestic market;

(b) if so, what is the remedy proposed or planned by Government *to* redress the grievances of the plastic woven sack industries;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are about 500 small plasitc technocrats and young entrepreneurs who do not have any clout or lobby in Government;

(d) if so, whether Government would take appropriate steps for this industry which has signalled SOS to Government; and

(e) if hot, whither Government accept the tall talk about encouraging Small Scale Industry is only an election propaganda ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): <(a) to (e) the reservtions made under the Jute packaging Materials (compulsory use in packing commodition Act, 1987 are being examined, taking into account the genuine difficulties of the plastic woven sacks units and the jute growers/jute industry.